

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1, 8, and 15 are amended. New claim 22 is added. Claims 1-22 are pending.

The Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-21 were rejected as being unpatentable over Anderson '238 in view of Marquardt '849 or Ezman '502, or Becken '061. Anderson '238 was said to disclose each and every aspect of the claimed invention with the exception of the claimed at least one retaining member, which was said to be taught by each of the other cited references.

Applicant has amended the claims to clarify the cooperative function of the mounting tabs and retaining members in the claimed invention. No narrowing or disclaimer of subject matter is intended by these amendments. In view of the amended claims, Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and submits that the combination of cited references fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention.

Anderson '238 depicts a roller assembly affixed within a "pocket 18" in a solid rail of a sliding door. The assembly is held in place with screws 31, which extend through holes 30 provided in flanges 29. See Anderson '238, col. 2, ll. 56-64; Figures 2-4, 8. There is no teaching or suggestion in Anderson '238 of retaining means for a roller assembly other than threaded fasteners, nor is there even any mention of hollow rail sliding door frames. Applicant respectfully submits that there is nothing in Anderson '238 that would have motivated one of ordinary skill in the art to look to the other references for additional securing means, since the screws disclosed therein are fully functional to secure the assembly in a solid door frame, and

there is no discussion at all of hollow door frames or of the securement issues associated therewith.

With regard to Ezman '502, reference numbers 27, 28, are cited by the Examiner as structures corresponding to the claimed retaining members. Reference numbers 27 and 28 in Ezman '502, however, refer to structures that engage the track of the sliding door to inhibit "jumping" of the roller, not structures for retaining the roller assembly in the door as in the claimed invention. See Ezman '502, col. 4, ll. 51-64. Accordingly, the combination of Anderson '238 and Ezman '502 does not yield the claimed invention in any case.

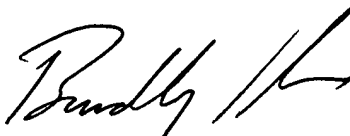
As for the Marquardt '849 and Becken '061 devices, securement of these within the door frame relies on contact of the top of the roller housing with a surface within the rail of the door above the housing, in cooperation with the retaining structures, which engage the inside of a lower wall of the rail. See Marquardt '849, Figure 2; Becken '061, Figure 4. There is no teaching or suggestion in either of these references of a structure to engage the outside of the lower wall of the rail, let alone positioning of such a structure so that the roller assembly is retained solely by contact on either side of the lower wall as in the claimed invention.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of cited references does not teach or suggest all elements of the claimed invention, and the claimed invention cannot be rendered obvious thereby. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bradley J. Thorson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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